



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

June 15, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: David Potter  
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Opening of Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area I

This memo is to inform you that the Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area I Access Areas will open on June 15th, 2007 to limited access and general category vessels. Both access areas have Yellowtail Flounder total allowable catches (TAC's). Additionally the turtle excluder chain mat is required for vessels fishing south of 41°09' North Latitude. New protocols describing how to subsample on Scallop Access Area trips have been added to the Biological Sampling Manual in March of this year. Please make sure you refer to these when sampling on these trips. Here is brief summary of those protocols:

WHEN NOT DECKLOADING:

- **Actual weights of kept and discarded yellowtail flounder are priority.**  
Subsampling should only be used for large volume catches where estimated weights are expected.
- Collect (actual) weights for all discarded species during and after the sorting process. If time becomes an issue, you may choose to collect a subsample of the discard pile. Use the Volume to Volume Ratio Method. If a subsample of the remaining discards is not an option, use approved estimation methods (*i.e.*, tally or Basket Count Method) to obtain accurate estimates of all discards.
- **Count the number of baskets of kept scallops collected for that haul.** This value will be entered in the Number of Bushels field under kept scallops on the Scallop Dredge Haul Log.
- Obtain an average weight of a basket of kept scallops (calculated once per watch at a minimum). In Access Areas, an average weight will consist of the meat weight from 1 full basket of whole scallops (filled and cut by crew).
- Multiply the number of kept scallop baskets by the obtained average weight. This product will equal the total weight of kept scallops for that haul. Enter this value in the Average lb/bushel field on the Scallop Haul Log.



WHEN DECKLOADING:

- **Keep a cumulative actual weight of Yellowtail Flounder (kept and discarded) and a cumulative count of baskets of kept scallops over the entire deckloading period. Divide the weight totals equally among participating hauls.**
- Use these collective sums for Yellowtail Flounder (kept and discarded) and kept scallops. The actual weights collected will be recorded as estimates on the haul logs due to an even share of the actual weights being assigned for each haul. Disregard the possible subsample estimate weights for Yellowtail Flounder and kept scallops. Comment on this process on the Catch Estimation Worksheet.

For more information on subsampling in the scallop fishery, refer to pages 68-72 in the Northeast Biological Sampling Manual. If you have any questions regarding these sampling protocols, please contact KB McArdle at (508) 495-2377 or [Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov](mailto:Katherine.McArdle@noaa.gov).

Thank you.

Attachment:

Checklist for sampling Nantucket Lightship Access Area trips  
and Closed Area I Access Area trips.



## Checklist for sampling Nantucket Lightship Access Area trips and Closed Area I Access Area trips

### TALLY SHEETS / iPAQ

TALLY SHEETS **ARE** REQUIRED FOR THE NLCA AND CAI ACCESS AREAS  
iPAQ SAP DATA **ARE** REQUIRED FOR THE NLCA AND CAI ACCESS AREAS


### SAFETY CHECKLIST

Wheel Watches: Remind observers to use the newest version of the safety checklist (**January 2007**) and to ask the captain if a wheel watch will be maintained while underway. If the answer is **NO**, observers should call their AC immediately.

--

### VESSEL AND TRIP LOG / OBSCON

Program Code: NLCA Program Code = 201      CAI Program Code = 202  
Vendor ID Code: 02= AIS Industry Funded      04= EWTS Industry Funded  
Contract Code: 046=vessel fishing Limited Access    047=vessel fishing General Category  
999=Unknown. This question should be asked at beginning of trip.


### SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR LOG

Turtle Chains: DETAILED COMMENTS NECESSARY! Comments should focus on grid-like pattern and connection of rock and tickler chains at intersection points. Confirm information with captain. Draw picture or take photo if possible.

Twine Top: Reminder to measure mesh when net is wet. (A lot of smaller mesh seen in recent data).


### SCALLOP DREDGE HAUL LOG

Access Area Protocols: AVG LB/BUSHEL must be a dressed meat weight. Kept Scallop weight in the species section of log should be a DRESSED weight.

Subsampling: Review Subsampling Guidelines in the new Bio-Sampling Manual with observers. Ask the observer if they have any questions regarding standard haul sampling, deckloading, shoveling and deckloading/shoveling combination. Review Catch Estimation Worksheet and make sure this is filled out for **ALL** hauls. Record on log how # of bushels was obtained (crew sorted/observer counted, extrapolated using weight, etc).

New Fields: Ask the observer if they have any questions regarding the new fields (date/time fishing begins and date/time gear onboard).


### SAMPLING

Access Area Protocols: Actual weights for kept and discarded Yellowtail Flounder and actual basket counts of kept scallops is the priority.

Deckloading: Cumulative actual weights of kept and discarded Yellowtail Flounder and basket counts of kept scallops should be obtained. That actual weight should be spread over all of the hauls during the deckloaded period and recorded as an estimated weight.


### LENGTH FREQUENCY LOG

New Field: Remind observers to take a meat weight from the 100 scallops measured and used to obtain a volumetric measurement. Record this weight as DRESSED ACTUAL.

--